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Here, from class to class, a decrease can be noted. The several regions are differently situated economically. In many there is a higher standard of life and of living, which would explain the differences among the same class in different regions. Economic well-being in the several regions can be roughly shown by the last column, representing the direct state tax *per capita*. The higher tax rate represents here, in a rough way, higher wages, higher holdings, and a corresponding higher standard of life.

The author sums up as follows: "As a result of these considerations, it appears that all classes have shared the differences in infant mortality in the different provinces. The reason lies in the circumstance that the social character of a region influences and acts upon the standard of life in all gradations of society in such a way as to raise or lower the rate of mortality. If the average income is taken into consideration with the social distinctions, one can compare more satisfactorily the standard of life in different regions. But the different social character of a region itself creates important differences, for a great economic development affects not only the standard of life of the population, but with it comes also a higher culture, although not always in true proportion. Public improvements are more frequent in countries of wealth. Schools and other public institutions increase the intelligence and morality of the population, and thus affect the infant mortality. Public hygiene especially operates to prevent the increase of mortality, and has been the cause of effective decrease."

GARY N. CALKINS.

INEBRIETY AND SUICIDE.

Trunksucht und Selbstmord und deren gegenseitige Beziehungen nebst einem statistischen Anhang und 2 Karten. By Dr. F. Prinzing. Leipzig, 1895.

This is a very carefully prepared treatise dealing chiefly with the phenomena of inebriety and suicide in Europe. The writer has gone into great detail, has adopted a broad and liberal point of view, and handled his material with considerable discrimination and caution.

The first chapter deals with inebriety in general,—its causes and results. The author maintains that spirituous liquors have their

legitimate use in society ; that it is their abuse which causes all the evils of intemperance ; and that this fact must be recognized if any permanent good is to be accomplished. The physical consequences of intemperance are diseases of the heart, stomach, liver, and kidneys, which are extremely difficult of cure, and apt to cause melancholy and depression. Mentally it renders impossible any consistent and long continued brain work, and morally it destroys all feelings of self-respect and responsibility.

The second, third, and fourth chapters take up suicide, its underlying causes, and the motives directly leading up to it. The resolution to suicide requires more intelligence than savages possess, but among civilized peoples self-murder has always been more or less common. In ancient Greece, among the early Romans, and in the religious period of the Middle Ages, it was regarded as an immoral act ; but in the corrupt times of the Roman Empire, and among certain classes during the eighteenth century, suicide was considered a rather commendable deed. The Christian and Mohammedan religions strictly forbid it, but Buddhism sanctions it.

The increase of suicide in this century led to a careful investigation of the subject. The chief causes are found to be, in Asiatic countries, religious fascination and excess of population ; and in Europe and America, grief over loss of fortune, inebriety, domestic troubles, mental disorder, and "tired of life," the last chiefly among old people. The best statistics on the subject were taken in Prussia, covering the years 1883-90. In that time 47,182 suicides were recorded, or an average of 5897.7 per year, and of these 26 per cent were from mental disorder, 10.8 per cent from grief over business losses, 9.9 per cent from being "tired of life," 9.7 per cent intemperance, 8.5 per cent bodily diseases, 8.1 per cent remorse and fear of punishment, 8.5 per cent from miscellaneous reasons, and 18.5 per cent from unknown causes. It is very difficult to trace the ultimate cause in each case, but probably 25 per cent was attributable to inebriety. As to sex, only 25.6 per cent were of women. The largest number of suicides occur among the commercial classes, owing to the increased pressure of modern life causing more failures and more mental disorder among the educated.

In order to ascertain the moral meaning of suicide it is necessary to distinguish two classes of subjects : (1) Those suffering from mental

disorder, or the social suicides ; and (2) those apparently sound in mind, or the tragic suicides.

The fifth chapter deals with the relation between inebriety and suicide. In 1825, Casper, the first to make a careful inquiry into this subject, found that out of a large number of cases 24.7 per cent were caused by inebriety. By careful inquiry since then it has been ascertained that, with a few exceptions, the amount of spirituous liquors consumed in a country corresponds very closely to the number of suicides occurring there, as the following table shows : —

Country.	Consumption, in Litres, per Capita.				Number of Suicides in Every Million of Inhabitants.
	Year.	Wine.	Beer.	Spiritu- ous Liquors.	
Denmark.....	1890	1	102.9	6.2	257
Switzerland.....	1891	61	40.0	3.2	220
France.....	1883-87	94	22.5	3.8	210
German Empire.....	1891	6	105.8	4.4	207
Austria-Hungary.....	1892	22	32.0	4.3	163
Belgium.....	1889	3	177.5	4.4	114
Sweden	1889	1	27.2	3.2	107
Great Britain.....	1882-84	2	136.2	2.7	78*
Norway.....	1891	1	37.5	1.8	66
Holland	1888-92	2	34.0	4.5	52
Italy.....	1884	95	0.9	1.4	47
Finland.....	1888	2.1	41
Russia.....	1886	3	4.6	3.4 ?	29 ?

* Only England and Wales.

The sixth and last chapter, although brief, contains several important suggestions as to the most effective means of decreasing both inebriety and suicide. It would be a great help if literature, the press, and the theatre, instead of exercising pernicious influence, as is now too often the case, would pay proper attention and deference to the religious beliefs of the people. The best protection against thoughts of suicide is a harmonious development of character, and the place to attain this is in the schools, although it is often neglected there.

Social suicides can undoubtedly be decreased by better care of the poor. Intemperance can be most effectually dealt with by placing a proper tax on the sale of spirituous liquors, limiting as far as possible the places where they may be obtained, and forcing persons having

the drink habit to go to asylums. But, after all, laws and police regulations can be of only secondary importance, and radical improvement can only be reached when the people — the lower as well as the higher classes — learn to recognize the danger and shame of drunkenness.

The value of the work is further greatly increased by an appendix containing nine tables of statistics and two colored charts. The first seven tables relate to suicide, its causes and modifying conditions as developed in Prussia in 1883-90. Table VIII gives the causes of suicide in Bavaria from 1884 to 1891, and Table IX the same for Würtemberg from 1873 to 1890. Chart I illustrates the prevalence of suicides in the States and provinces of Germany, and Chart II the consumption of spirituous liquors in the same, showing by comparison the striking connection existing between the two.

A. T. HOSMER.

THE GAIN AND LOSS EXHIBIT OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Prior to January 1, 1896, the various State insurance departments of the United States had not required the life insurance companies to make a report of the items of profit and loss for the year, so as to show the source of all gains and the cause of all losses. In the convention of State insurance officials during 1895 a new blank, on which a committee had been working for more than two years, was adopted unanimously. This blank contains, in addition to the things formerly required, a specific and detailed statement of items of profit and loss for the year. Though there was no objection to this in the convention, there was serious and combined objection on the part of life insurance companies before the same came actually into use. As a consequence of this objection, all of the departments except four failed to carry out the will of the convention; that is to say, they failed to require the companies to fill out this part of the blank report. The four departments which insisted upon compliance with this requirement were those of Connecticut, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Colorado. The department of Connecticut, being limited as to the time at which its report must appear, found its data so incomplete that it published only aggregates, and did not publish the individual